

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01

ITC-01 SP-02 USIA-06 AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00

COME-00 INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01

STR-07 TRSE-00 CEA-01 SS-15 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10

NEA-10 /135 W

-----091424 021923Z /46

P 021903Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5246

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROMEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

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GENEVA ALSO FOR MTN; PARIS ALSO FOR USOECD

ALSO FOR USEC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, EC, BE

SUBJECT: BELGIAN REPRESENTATION AND VIEWS FOR THE

UNCTAD TDB MINISTERIAL

1. IN INFORMAL CONTACTS WITH BELGIAN OFFICIALS WHO WILL BE ATTENDING THE UNCTAD TRADE/DEVELOPMENT BOARD (TDB) MINISTERIAL IN GENEVA NEXT WEEK, THEY HAVE TOLD US THAT THE BELGIAN DELEGATION WILL BE HEADED BY MINISTER FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DEVELOPMENT AID LUC OUTERS. OUTERS WILL ONLY BE AT THE CONFERENCE WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON AND THURSDAY; THE REST OF THE TIME, THE CHIEF BELGIAN DELEGATE WILL BE DOMINIQUE LALOUX OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY.

2. LALOUX AND HIS COLLEAGUES IN THE AID AND FINANCE MINISTRIES TELL US THAT BELGIUM CAN BE COUNTED UPON NOT

RPT NOT TO MAKE ANY SORT OF UNILATERAL GESTURE TOWARDS
THE G-77 (E.G. CANCELLATION OF LLDC OFFICIAL DEBT) DURING
THE CONFERENCE. AT THE SAME TIME, THE GOB IS PREPARED TO
SUPPORT RETROACTIVE ADJUSTMENT OF LDC DEBT(CHANGING
PAST LOAN CONDITIONS TO CONFORM WITH CURRENT SOFTER TERMS)
IF A CONSENSUS FOR THIS DEVELOPS IN THE EC AND/OR GROUP B.
3. OUTSTANDING BELGIAN OFFICIAL DEBT TO ALL LDC'S IS ONLY
BF 9 BILLION--BELGIAN AID HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN ON A
LARGELY GRANT BASIS. OF THIS AMOUNT, ABOUT BF 4 BILLION
IS HELD BY THE POORER LDC'S (UNDER \$265 PER CAPITA) AND
BF 575 MILLION BY THE LEAST DEVELOPED. BELGIUM'S MAJOR
LDC INTEREST IS ZAIRE, WHERE AID WAS ON A COMPLETELY GRANT
BASIS UNTIL 1973 WITH LENDING ONLY MINIMAL (ABOUT BF 150
MILLION) AND ON VERY SOFT TERMS SINCE THEN. AN EVENTUAL
CONCESSION ON DEBT TO THE POORER LDC'S WOULD COST BELGIUM
LITTLE AND, FOR THIS REASON, WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE VERY
DIFFICULT TO SELL AT HOME. CHAMBERS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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